

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

L-03 /063 W
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R 071546Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9644
DEA WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15865

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, SNAR, US, UR, PFOR
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: PROPOSAL FOR DEA VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 15481

BEGIN SUMMARY: NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAS PROPOSED AT M.F.A.
A VISIT TO MOSCOW BY D.E.A. OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE ENFORCEMENT
INFORMATION ON DRUG TRANSIT THROUGH THE U.S.S.R. TO SOVIET NARCOTICS
ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. SOVIETS HAVE PROMISED TO RESPOND.
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR 6 OCTOBER MET AT M.F.A.
WITH KAPRALOV (U.S.A. SECTION: BILATERALS) AND AKULIN (TREATY
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS). GROUP WAS LATER JOINED BY SVIRIDOV
(NARCOTICS SPECIALISTS, TREATY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS). EMBOFF MADE
GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF GLOBAL NATURE OF NARCOTICS
TRAFFIC PROBLEM, OF U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, AND OF RECENT ARRESTS BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES
OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO TRANSIT MOSCOW WITH DRUGS,
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INCLUDING THE THREE AMERICANS ARRESTED IN JUNE AT MOSCOW'S

SHEREMET'YEVO WITH 28 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN.

2. AFTER EXPLAINING DRUG RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN U.S. GOVERNMENT OF D.E.A., CUSTOMS, AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE (AMBASSADOR VANCE'S OFFICE), EMBOFF NOTED THAT D.E.A. ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS HAD NOTED THE PATTERN OF ARRESTS, AND HAD INDEED FOLLOWED UP ON THE CASE OF THE THREE AMERICANS TO LEARN WHETHER ANY PROFESSIONAL TRAFFICKERS WERE INVOLVED. EMBOFF SAID THAT D.E.A. OFFICIALS TEND TO AGREE WITH THE (THREE AMERICANS') SOVIET JUDGE, WHO SAID THAT THE THREE AMERICANS HAD ONLY SMALL PARTS IN THE CRIME, THAT THE "POWERS" BEHIND THE CRIME WERE STILL UNCAUGHT AND UNPUNISHED. EMBOFF ALSO NOTED THAT D.E.A. TRIES TO KEEP AWARE OF CHANGING PATTERNS AND ROUTES OF DRUG TRAFFIC, AND THEREFORE HAS BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME OF THE POTENTIAL FOR THE USE OF MOSCOW AS A TRANSIT POINT IN THE TRAFFIC FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA TO WESTERN EUROPE.

3. EMBOFF SAID THAT D.E.A. BELIVES IT HAS SOME INFORMATION OF MUTUAL INTEREST CONCERNING BOTH THE OPERATIONS OF THE GROUP THAT SENT THE AMERICANS AND ON THE USE OF MOSCOW AS A TRANSIT POINT IN THE TRAFFIC OF NARCOTICS. D.E.A. WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THAT INFORMATION TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES, AND FOR THAT PURPOSE WOULD LIKE TO SEND ONE OR TWO D.E.A. OFFICIALS TO MOSCOW TO TALK WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. EMBOFF SPECIFIED THAT OFFER WAS NOT CONTINGENT UPON SOVIET AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY ANY ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION TO US. OFFICIALS WHEN HERE, ALTHOUGH EMBOFF WAS SURE SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE WELCOME.

4. SOVIETS ASKED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(A) WAS THE OFFER SOLELY FROM D.E.A. OR WAS IT A U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL (EMBOFF REPLIED THAT D.E.A. HAS ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND HAD THE INFORMATION, BUT THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL, TO BE BROUGHT TO M.F.A., WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED BY D.E.A. AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE).

(B) DOES D.E.A. POSSESS INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONS CURRENTLY TRANSITING THE SOVIET UNION WITH DRUGS? (EMBOFF SAID THAT "CURRENTLY" IS DIFFICULT QUESTION IN ENFORCEMENT; THAT D.E.A. CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS REASON TO BELIEVE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY INVOLVED, EVEN UP TO VERY RECENTLY, IN EFFORTS TO SEND DRUGS THROUGH MOSCOW).

(C) WOULD D.E.A. AGENTS WANT TO MEET WITH POLITICAL OR POLICE OFFICIALS? (EMBOFF SAID THAT D.E.A. OFFICIALS ARE ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATORS, AND THUS SHOULD BEST MEET WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS WHO ADMINISTER THE ANTI-DRUG ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

PROBABLY D.E.A. OFFICIAL(S) WOULD BE REGION 17 DIRECTOR PUCCINI
AND BONN AGENT CASH.)

(D) WHAT WOULD BE TIMING OF SUGGESTED VISIT? (EMBOFF SAID
THAT EARLIEST CONVENTION TIME FOR D.E.A. OFFICIALS WOULD BE MIDDLE
TO LATE NOVEMBER. EMBOFF HAS SPECIFIED THAT ALTHOUGH SOLE
PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME WAS FOR D.E.A. TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON A
VISIT TO MOSCOW, IT SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT IF BOTH SIDES FOUND
THE EXCHANGE USEFUL, THAT LATER EXCHANGES COULD OCCUR, SHOULD BOTH
SIDES AGREE.)

5. SOVIETS SAID THEY WOULD STUDY PROPOSAL AND GIVE RESPONSE
SHORTLY.

6. COMMENT. INITIAL RESPONSE WAS "POSITIVE" IN THAT IT
WASN'T NEGATIVE, BUT SOVIETS GAVE NO INDICATION OF HOW LONG
THEIR FORMAL RESPONSE WOULD TAKE. THEY SEEMED TO EXHIBIT SOME
CONFUSION AS TO WHERE NEXT IN SOVIET STRUCTURE TO TAKE
PROPOSAL, BUT WERE FIRM THAT THERE WOULD BE A RESPONSE.
NO INFORMATION WAS PROMISED ON THE ARRESTED AMERICANS THEMSELVES;
ONLY INFORMATION OFFERED ON THAT SPECIFIC CASE WAS : (1) ON HOW
THE CASE FITS INTO THE OVERALL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC PATTERN, AND (2)
ABOUT OTHER INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED TO CASE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN
REGULARLY INVOLVED IN DRUG-SMUGGLING THROUGH MOSCOW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG TRAFFIC, VISITS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW15865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760379-0926
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761073/aaaackxc.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 15481
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: PROPOSAL FOR DEA VISIT TO MOSCOW
TAGS: TGEN, SNAR, PFOR, US, UR
To: STATE DEA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006